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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 006189

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - UN Summit Katrina Gaza  
PARIS - Tuesday, September 13, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

UN Summit  
Katrina  
Gaza

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

Front pages are devoted to an array of different stories, mostly domestic social and political. The two exceptions are Le Figaro which leads with "Gaza: The Palestinians Masters of their Destiny" and La Croix which devotes its lead to the role of the Catholic Church in helping the neediest in the states hit by Katrina. But La Croix's editorial, which is titled "After Gaza," comments that "the hardest task lies in the hands of Abbas, who can succeed thanks to the help of Sharon and the international community." (See Part C)

The aftermath of Katrina, and what the hurricane has revealed about America, its poor, and the role of the Federal government remain major stories. A double spread in Le Parisien, is announced on the front page: "The Other America: 37 Million Americans in Poverty" and begins a four-part series about poverty in America. Le Parisien interviews Andre Kaspi of the Sorbonne University: "It isn't only Blacks who are poor, there are many poor Whites. But the Blacks seem to nurture a culture of poverty leading to a rejection of too much education. The difference between the U.S. and France is that while France favors the notion of solidarity towards its poor, America promotes equality of chances for all. And those who are left behind are not necessarily helped. Fighting poverty is not a priority of American policy. But generosity in the aftermath of Katrina is coming from the general population; Americans do not necessarily feel that help must come from the federal government." In the same vein, an op-ed in Le Figaro is titled "After Katrina, a Stronger Central Government." (See Part C)

UN reform and the UN summit elicit a number of op-eds and pessimistic commentaries in Le Figaro and Liberation as to the final Summit declaration. (See Part C) In Le Figaro, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the European Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, promotes human rights in order to reduce world conflicts, while in La Croix former minister and vice president of the commission for foreign relations, Paul Quiles, promotes multilateralism and better North-South relations within the UN.

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

UN Summit

"The UN Reform Sinks Before It Starts"  
Laurent Mauriac in left-of-center Liberation (09/13): "Before the summit has even begun it appears that it is doomed to fail. After much effort, the negotiations appear to be at an impasse on two major issues: human rights and UN management. On Friday, a final document will nevertheless be published, but it may well be close to worthless. The many reservations imposed by the Americans turned the negotiations into an extremely difficult mission. As soon as he was nominated, the U.S. Ambassador, John Bolton, who is allergic to multilateralism, covered the initial text with an avalanche of amendments. Yet the U.S., which is mired in Iraq, engaged in a difficult fight against terrorism and confronted by threats from Iran and North Korea has never been in more dire need of international cooperation."

"The Prospect of Failure"  
Alain Barluet in right-of-center Le Figaro (09/13): "Diplomats are working hard to defuse the failure which is threatening to befall the three-day summit. Persisting disagreements could lead the final text to lose a portion of its intended impact. Major bartering has been going on between the U.S. and a series of non-aligned countries who are sticking to their more 'radical' stance. These countries, fearing a disengagement of the UN and their subsequent loss of power, are using America's

intransigence to promote their own views."

#### Katrina

"After Katrina, A Stronger Central Government"

Guy Sorman in right-of-center Le Figaro (09/13): "Bad news for the anti-Americans: the U.S. will not be swallowed by Katrina just as it was not overcome by 9/11. What will come out is the fact that American society has a great capacity for bouncing back. New Orleans will be rebuilt. While the central government remains weak in the face of natural disasters, the effectiveness of civil society and private initiative remain strong. Few people have noted that 500 million dollars have been raised from the private sector and from Churches. To believe that the victims expect everything from their government is a projection of our own ways on America. More important than this mix of compassion and anti-American jubilation is how the federal government will evolve. Katrina has shown the shortcomings of local governments more than those of Washington. After Katrina, added to post-9/11, internal security will dominate at the federal level. Re-enforced security will be at the center of the federal government's concern, leaving all other issues, culture, education and social services to civil society and the market."

#### Gaza

"After Gaza"

Dominique Quinio in Catholic La Croix (09/13): "What will the Palestinians do with their newfound land? After the last Israeli soldier has left, much needs yet to be done. The Palestinians will be tempted to assume that the pull out is their military victory. and the fruit of their armed resistance. The destruction of the synagogues stands as a symbol of their feelings for revenge. that will trigger anger and sadness in Israel. It might have been better if the Israelis had destroyed them themselves. Mahmoud Abbas carries the heaviest load. He needs to embrace the joy of his people but refrain from showing excessive triumph. He must continue to make demands from Israel but through negotiations. He needs to eradicate terrorism and the extremists from his own camp. On both sides of the border the enemies of peace are ready to fan the fires of anger and hate. The task is almost insurmountable for a single man. But with the help of Sharon's political perseverance and the sustained support of the international community Mahmoud Abbas can succeed." STAPLETON